

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 DAMASC 08306 051132Z

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 796

S E C R E T DAMASCUS 8306

NODIS

FOR SECRETARY FROM MURPHY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LE, SY, IS, US

SUBJECT: SOUTHERN LEBANON

REF: STATE 296266

1. KHADDAM NOT RECEIVING VISITORS TODAY ON DOCTORS' ORDERS.
ACCORDINGLY MET WITH MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS
ADI THIS MORNING TO MAKE POINTS REFTEL.

2. ADI SAID POINTS WOULD BE SUBMITTED IMMEDIATELY TO ASAD AND
I WOULD BE INFORMED IF THERE ANY COMMENT. SAID POINTS APPEARED
TO HIM TO BE A MORE PRECISE STATEMENT BY ISRAELIS
AND INDICATIVE OF FIRMER POSITION THAN HERETOFORE. CONFESSED
HE CONFUSED BY FLOOD OF APPARENTLY CONTRADICTORY STATEMENTS
COMING FROM ISRAEL ON SUBJECT OF SOUTHERN LEBANON. ISRAELIS
BROADCAST OF DEC 4 HAD SEEMED INDICATE ISRAELIS AGREED
THAT LIMITED NUMBER OF ARAB FORCES COULD PROCEED TO TYRE
AND NABATIYAH AREAS.

3. SPEAKING PERSONALLY, ADI NOTED THAT HE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND
WHY ISRAELIS HAD DECIDED PORT OF TYRE WAS SENSITIVE TO THEIR
SECURITY. IT OBVIOUSLY IN INTEREST OF ALL BUT WOULD BE
TROUBLEMAKERS THAT TYRE BE SHUT DOWN. I ASKED IF SYRIA
HAD ANY RECENT INTELLIGENCE ABOUT USE OF TYRE FOR ARMS
SHIPMENTS. ADI REPLIED LATEST INFO HE RECALLED WAS ARRIVAL

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OF A SHIPLOAD OF ARMS DESTINED FOR LEBANESE LEFTIST/

PALESTINIANS TWO TO THREE WEEKS AGO. SINCE THEN TYRE HAD BEEN USED TO EVACUATE IRAQI TROOPS.

4. CONTINUING ADI SAID IT APPEARED TO HIM THAT "EVERYONE RECOGNIZED THAT SARKIS COULD NOT TREAT SOUTHERN LEBANON DIFFERENTLY FROM REST OF COUNTRY. BUT EVERYTIME ARABS TAKE A STEP TOWARDS PEACE, ISRAELIS CREATE NEW CONDITINS. ISRAEL KNOWS WELL THAT THE ARAB SECURITY FORCES IN LEBANON CONSTITUTE NO DANGER TO IT." HE THEN QUOTED FROM LAST WEEK'S ASAD-KRAFT INTERVIEW ABOUT SYRIA'S INTENTIONS IN LEBANON, INCLUDING COMMENT THAT HAD SYRIA WANTED TROUBLE WITHISRAEL IT COULD HAVE GENERATED THIS ON THE GOLAN.

5. DEPT PLEASE PASS BEIRUT AND TEL AVIV.
MURPHY

SECRET

NNN

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